

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 AID-20 EB-11 IO-14

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SUBJECT: RABASA'S REMARKS TO PRESS ON MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

REF: MEXICO 1012

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY. ON RETURN FROM EUROPE, MEXICAN FONSEC RABASA TOLD PRESS HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RESULTS OF UPCOMING MFJ BUT CAUTIONED THAT MEETING COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO RESOLVE ALL LATIN PROBLEMS WITH US, ADDING THAT US AGREEMENT TO DIALOGUE WITH LATINS ON BASIS OF "COORDINATION" AND NOT "SUBORDINATION" IN ITSELF CONSTITUTES A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE. RABASA ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET AT NON-PARTICIPATION OF CUBA BUT EXPLAINED THAT, BECAUSE OF BOGOTA AGREEMENTS AND FACT THAT CUBA DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS, MFJ COULD NOT HAVE BEEN HELD OTHERWISE. FONSEC ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT FORMAT FOR MFJ WAS PRIMARILY OF LATIN CONFECTION, ALTHOUGH HE HAD CONSULTED WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IN THIS REGARD. END SUMMARY.

2. MEXICAN FONSEC EMILIO RABASA RETURNED TO MEXICO FEB. 15 FROM YUGOSLAVIA, LAST STOP ON PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EUROPEAN TOUR, AND MET PRESS AT AIRPORT. AS QUOTED IN

MORNING PAPERS FEB. 16, HE SAID: "THERE IS DEFINITELY A CLIMATE OF OPTIMISM (ABOUT THE MFM), BUT WE -- MEXICO AMONG OTHERS -- DO NOT WANT TO SUGGEST THAT IN THIS REUNION WE ARE GOING TO COME UP WITH COMPLETE AND DEFINITIVE FORMULAS THAT WILL RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF LATIN AMERICA; THAT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC." RABASA ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE SAW TWO SIGNIFICANT FORWARD STEPS IN THE MFM: (A) "FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF OUR RELATIONS WITH US, WE HAVE BROUGHT TOGETHER ALL FONMINS OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND AGREED ON EIGHT POINTS"; (B) "TO HAVE CONVINCED US SECRETARY OF STATE TO COME AND ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE WITH US, IN FRANK AND OPEN MANNER, WITH MUTUAL RESPECT, ON BASIS OF COORDINATION AND NEVER, NEVER (JAMAS, NUNCA) OF SUBORDINATION, CONSTITUTES, I BELIEVE, ANOTHER ADVANCE IN HISTORY OF NATIONS OF THIS CONTINENT."

3. RABASA RECALLED EIGHT POINTS AGREED ON IN BOGOTA AND STATED THAT MEXICO HAD PROPOSED THREE OF THEM: PANAMA CANAL; CONDUCT OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES; AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. REFECVING TO THE TWO ADDITIONAL ITEMS PROPOSED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER (PANORAMA OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ENERGY CRISIS), RABASA ADDED: "I DON'T KNOW WHETHER SECRETARY KISSINGER INTENDS TO TREAT ENERGY AS AN INFORMATIONAL ITEM OR WILL BRING A PROPOSAL TO PRESENT TO LATIN AMERICA. IN PRELIMINARY MEETING OF (LATIN) FONMINS, WE WILL DESIGNATE THE SPOKESMEN WHO WILL DEAL WITH THIS THEME."

4. WITH REGARD TO CUBA, RABASA SAID MEXICANS REGRETTED AS MUCH AS ANYONE FACT THAT CUBA WOULD NOT BE PRESENT BUT EXPLAINED THERE WERE TWO REASONS FOR CUBAN ABSENCE: FIRST, MEXICANS, EVEN THOUGH HOSTS, COULD NOT GO BEYOND ARRANGEMENTS MADE AT BOGOTA, WHERE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED BUT WHERE "UNFORTUNATELY" NO CONSENSUS (ON INVITING CUBA) WAS REACHED; SECOND, BECAUSE SOME LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES DO NOT MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH CUBA, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE ATTENDED MFM WERE CUBA TO HAVE BEEN PRESENT. HE ADDED THAT, IN ABSENCE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND CUBA, DR. KISSINGER WOULD HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ATTEND AND THUS THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO MFM. RABASA CONCLUDED RESPONSE BY REITERATING MEXICAN REGRET AT CUBAN ABSENCE.

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5. DISCUSSING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON TWO WEEKS AGO, RABASA SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH SECRETARY MECHANICS OF MFM, WHICH WERE DESIGNED TO ENABLE SECRETARY UPON ARRIVAL TO MAKE BEST USE OF TIME, WITH MINIMUM TIME DEVOTED TO PROTOCOLARY QUESTIONS. RABASA POINTEDLY ADDED: "CONTRARY TO WHAT SOMEONE HAS STATED, DR. KISSINGER DID NOT TELL ME HOW THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE CONDUCTED;

RATHER, I TOLD HIM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DOCUMENT OF BOGOTA,
HOW WE EXPECTED THE CONFERENCE WOULD DEVELOP. HE AGREED."

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6. WE PRESUME THAT IN PARA 5 REMARKS RABASA WAS RESPONDING
TO RECENT COLUMN BY SAMUEL DEL VILLAR IN EXCELSIOR (REFTEL)
WHICH ATTACKED HIM AS "CHAMPION OF KISSINGERISM" AND SUGGESTED,
INTER ALIA, THAT HE HAD GONE TO WASHINGTON TO RECEIVE
MARCHING ORDERS FROM THE SECRETARY. WE KNOW THAT RABASA HAS
BEEN VERY SENSITIVE TO THIS CRITICISM WHICH WE ARE TOLD HE
FEELS COMES FROM MEXICAN ENEMIES AND RIVALS WITHIN AND WITHOUT
THE GOVERNMENT.
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